

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 42

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Laredo will celebrate the life of one of
2 this nation's most revered leaders when it hosts the 106th
3 Washington's Birthday Celebration on February 8-23, 2003; and

4 WHEREAS, This special tradition dates back to February 22,
5 1898, when the Laredo tribe of the Improved Order of Red Men, a
6 patriotic fraternal organization descended from the Sons of
7 Liberty, staged a spirited mock battle between the Red Men and the
8 defenders of City Hall; the contest, which represented the colonial
9 struggle against the British, ended with the Red Men victorious and
10 the mayor's presenting the key to the City of Laredo to the "Great
11 Chief Sachem," "Sachem" being a code name used by George Washington
12 during the American Revolution; thus a celebration was born; and

13 WHEREAS, This 16-day, 37-event extravaganza combines
14 elements of Hispanic and Anglo cultures and consists of parades,
15 pageants, and concerts, as well as a carnival, a children's fun
16 fest, and an abundance of good food; among its most notable events
17 are the Jalapeno Festival, the Princess Pocahontas Pageant and
18 Ball, and the Abrazo ceremony at the International Bridge; and

19 WHEREAS, Born in Virginia on February 22, 1732, President
20 Washington left an indelible legacy as this nation's first
21 commander in chief and president; admired for his courage, vision,
22 and integrity, he remains one of the most influential and respected
23 United States presidents of all time; and

24 WHEREAS, The citizens of Laredo can take great pride in their

1 city's celebration of our legendary Founding Father, and it is
2 appropriate to take this opportunity to recognize and commend all
3 who participate in the event; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
5 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2003 Washington's Birthday
6 Celebration in Laredo and extend to its organizers and participants
7 sincere best wishes for another successful and memorable
8 observance; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the members of the Washington's Birthday Celebration
11 Association as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of
12 Representatives.